GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2400
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2017
Water Testing Laboratories
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether water available in most of the areas of Uttar Pradesh bordering Nepal is not fit for drinking due to arsenic and fluoride contents;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether laboratories for testing the quality of water have been set up with Central financial and technical assistance in Uttar Pradesh and other States of the country;
(d) if so, the details thereof and alternative arrangements made at places where laboratories are not available, Statewise;
(e) whether the Government proposes to set up any monitoring system for getting optimum result; and
(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) & (b) District-wise number of arsenic and fluoride affected habitations in Uttar Pradesh including bordering districts namely Bahraich, Balrampur, Kheri, Maharajganj, Pilibhit, Shravasti & Siddhath Nagar, as reported by the Uttar Pradesh State into the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 10th March, 2017 is at Annexure-I.

(c) to (f) Rural drinking water supply is a state subject. This Ministry supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for improving the coverage of clean drinking water to rural population. It is the State Governments who plan, design, execute and operate schemes for providing safe drinking water.
Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), upto 3% of fund is provided for water quality monitoring and surveillance, which inter alia include taking up works relating to setting up of new / up-gradation of State /district/sub district water quality testing laboratories, providing chemicals and consumables to laboratories, hiring of manpower in laboratories, providing field test kits/refills and bacteriological vials to Gram Panchayats etc.
State-wise number of drinking water quality testing laboratories set up at various levels and reported by the States into the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 10th March, 2017 including Uttar Pradesh is at Annexure-II. Wherever such facilities are not available, states have been asked to set up the laboratory urgently. In the meanwhile services of locally available laboratory can be availed for testing quality of drinking water.
In order to get optimum results / correct results for drinking water quality testing, Government of India has published Uniform Drinking Water Quality Protocol in the year 2013 and widely circulated up to district level in the country, which incorporates minimum standards for setting up of laboratories and water quality testing procedures.